

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants gratefully note the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 3-9 are directed to allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if either rewritten in independent form or made dependent from an allowable claim, and wherein also the formal grounds of objection have been tended to in response to the Office Action.

Concerning the objections to the specification, appropriate amendatory action has been taken by the applicants to meet the Examiner's requirements. However, applicants would point out to the Examiner that the paragraph on Page 1, commencing on Line 8 (indicated as Lines 9 and 10) has already been previously amended in the Preliminary Amendment, which was filed concurrently with the filing of this application.

The remaining points raised by the Examiner with regard to the specification have been attended to in the present instance, thereby rendering that particular objection to be moot.

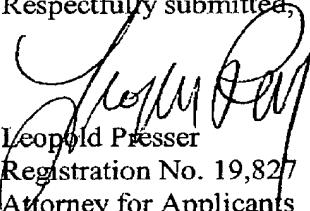
Furthermore, with regard to the formal objections to Claims 10 and 11, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot any further discussion thereof.

Concerning the rejection of the claims, applicants note that Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Proud, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 3,484,169 in view of Ross, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,216,695, as extensively detailed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, in order to place this application into order for allowance, applicants have cancelled Claims 2 and 3 without prejudice and incorporated the limitations thereof into Claim 1, thereby placing Claim 1 and Claims 4-9, which are dependent therefrom into condition for

allowance. Furthermore, the cancellation of Claims 10 and 11 also obviates the rejection over the prior art.

Accordingly, inasmuch as all of the claims have been amended so as to essentially meet the Examiner's requirements and to patentably distinguish over the art, no detailed discussion of the cited publications is deemed to be necessary. In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, applicants respectfully request the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,

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